

NYLS' GOVERNOR'S BILL JACKET

**1958
CHAPTER 107**

24 PAGES

(NYLS added 4 pages)

PENAL LAW
Gravity Knives Ban

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1-14-54-5M (30MO-1452)

CHAPTER

107

2d Rdg. 27

Nos. 913, 1796

Int. 913

IN ASSEMBLY

January 9, 1958

E

Introduced by Mr. STEINGUT—read once and referred to the Committee on Codes—reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and placed on the order of second reading

AN ACT

To amend the penal law, in relation to the sale or possession
of gravity knives

Notes

Jurats and Enacting Clause

Compared by

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY

Approved by

March 5, 1958

MICROFILMED

DATE 8/12/39 2
NO. OF PRINTED BILLS.....
NO. OF EXPOSURES 18
EXCLUSIVE OF BILLS.....

Form No. 88-2000

State of New York

In Assembly

FEB 1

1958

Ordered, That the Clerk deliver the bill entitled

AN ACT

To amend the penal law, in relation to the sale or possession
of gravity knives

to the Senate, and request its concurrence in the same.

By order of the Assembly

ANSLEY B. BORKOWSKI

Clerk

IN SENATE
Passed Without Amendment

FEb 24 1968
By order of the SENATE

William S. Heig
SECRETARY



STANLEY STEINGUT
271 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Mr. Walsh

RECEIVED

27 REC'D

COUNCIL TO THE GOVERNOR

February 26, 1958

Hon. Daniel Gutman
Counsel to the Governor
Executive Chamber
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Dan:

My bill Assembly Introductory 913, Print 1796, simply includes gravity knives in Section 1896 which makes any person who sells or has in his possession certain dangerous weapons guilty of a misdemeanor.

The gravity knife has come into being as a circumvention of this section and is the successor of the switchblade knife. The gravity knife is not violative of this section and, therefore, it is imperative that it be included.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley
STANLEY STEINGUT
Member of Assembly

SS:ak

FRANCIS S. McGARVEY
SUPERINTENDENT



GEORGE M. SEARLE
DEPUTY
[REDACTED]
CHIEF INSPECTOR
MARTIN F. DILLON
CHIEF INSPECTOR

NEW YORK STATE TROOPERS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
ALBANY

A 713 February 26, 1958.

Hon. Daniel Gutman,
Counsel to the Governor,
Executive Chamber,
Albany, N.Y.

Dear Judge Gutman:

This acknowledges your memorandum, enclosing Assembly Bill Print No. 913-1796 Int. 913, an act to amend the penal law, in relation to the sale or possession of gravity knives.

The proposed legislation deals with a technicality concerning a type of dangerous weapon and clarifies and reinforces existing law. The Division recommends approval.

Very truly yours,

Francis S. McGarvey

Francis S. McGarvey
Superintendent.

FSMcG/m.

FEB 26 3 11 PM

5



THOMAS J. MCHUGH
COMMISSIONER
WILLIAM E. FLANIGAN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

ALFRED E. SMITH STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY

WILLIAM E. LEONARD
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
CHARLES S. ANTOLINA
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
SOLOMON KAUFMAN
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

February 27, 1958

Re: An act to amend the penal law, in relation
to the sale or possession of gravity knives

Assembly Int. 513 - P. 513, 1796
Assemblyman Steinberg - Introducer

A 913

Hon. Daniel Gutman
Counsel to the Governor
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York

Dear Sir:

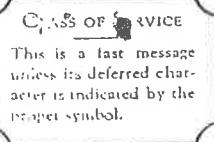
Pursuant to your request for comment, please be
advised that this Department has no objection to the
approval of the above bill.

Very truly yours,

S. Kaufman

Solomon Kaufman
Deputy Commissioner

sk:hgj



WESTERN UNION

TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS	
DL	Day Letter
NL	Night Letter
LT	International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

SYD138

SY NNB753 NL PD=NEWYORK NY 27

GOVERNOR W A HARRIMAN
ALBANY NY

1958 13 27 PM 8 18

ADVISED BILL REGARDING GRAVITY KNIVES PASSED SENATE
ASSEMBLY NOW AWAITING YOUR SIGNATURE OUR ASSOCIATION
URGES YOU SIGN
QUEENS COUNTY GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION INC
CLEMENTS GRAFE

15 7

March 4, 1958.

My dear Mr. Gafe:

On behalf of Governor Harriman, I acknowledge receipt of your recent communication regarding the legislation concerning gravity knives.

The Governor has asked me to thank you for advising him as to your views in the matter.

Cordially yours,

DO:afob

Mr. Clemens Gafe, Queens County Grand Jurors Assoc.
Queens Medical Society Building
112-25 Queens Boulevard
Forest Hills 75, New York

Queens County Grand Jurors' Association, Inc.

NEW YORK

President

HERMAN C. HANSEN
166-33 89th Avenue
Jamaica 32, N. Y.
Republic 9-3243

Vice-Presidents

EMIL J. HORN
HERMAN WEBER
VINCENT J. ASHTON

Counsel

FRANK M. NICOLOSI

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*LEONARD S. COLYER
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FRANCIS J. SORG
THOMAS J. STYLES
*EMIL C. ZIMMERMANN



ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR., Treasurer
72-16 67th Place, Glendale 27, N. Y.
Tel. HEgeman 3-8393

STEPHEN F. SCHNEIDER, Secretary
53-29 62nd Street
Maplethorpe 78, N. Y.
Tel. HAvenmeyer 9-4003

Organized 1925
Place of Meeting
QUEENS MEDICAL SOCIETY BUILDING
112-25 Queens Boulevard
Forest Hills 75, N. Y.

Legislation Committee
Clemens Grafe, Chairman
86-29 78 Street, Woodhaven 21, N. Y.

February 28, 1958

Governor Averell Harriman
State Capitol Building
Albany, New York

Honorable Sir:

I am confirming on behalf of our Association
the following telegram sent to you on yesterday's
date.

"Advised bill regarding Gravity Knives
passed Senate Assembly. Now awaiting
your signature. Our Association urges
you sign."

Due to the teenage problem at present prevalent
in New York City the passage of the bill in our
opinion will improve conditions in our City by
its enforcement.

Your co-operation is enlisted in this matter and
our Association would appreciate receiving your
comments at your earliest convenience.

Anticipating your favorable reply.

Sincerely yours,

Clemens Grafe
Clemens Grafe

March 6, 1958

My dear Mr. Grafe:

On behalf of Governor Harriman, I acknowledge your letter of February 28, 1958 concerning legislation outlawing the use of gravity knives.

You will be pleased to know that Governor Harriman approved this bill yesterday and it is now part of the laws of our state.

Cordially yours,

Mr. Clemens Grafe
Queens County Grand Jurors' Association, Inc.
86-29 78th Street
Woodhaven 21, New York

DD:WJV:ms

Committee to Ban Teen-Age Weapons

STATE SEN. FRANK J. PINO
Vice Chairman

HON. JOHN E. CONE
Chairman

CITY COUNCILMAN JACK KRANIS
Vice Chairman

IN COOPERATION WITH
THE YOUTH SERVICE LEAGUE
HON. ALBERT M. LEAVITT, President

*Rita DeSantis
13th Dist. Chairman
See Below*

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- PETER C. BROWN
Corporation Counsel, New York City
- ALBERT W. BYRNES
- VINCENT J. CARISTO
- JOHN CASHMORE
Borough President, Brooklyn
- VERY REV. MSGR. WILLIAM M. CASEY
Director, St. Vincent's Home for Boys
- ARTHUR CLINTON
Dir. Bureau of Attendance,
Board of Education
- JOHN E. CONE
Justice, N.Y.S. Supreme Court
- JOHN V. CONNORTON
Executive Director
Greater New York Hospital Ass'n
- IRVING BEN COOPER
Chief Judge, Court of Spec. Sessions
- JAMES CRISONA
Borough President, Queens
- ANTHONY J. DI GIOVANNA
Justice, Supreme Court, Kings County
- HON. JONAH GOLDSTEIN
- ROSS DI LORENZO
Counsel, Workman's Compensation
- REV. ROBERT GALLAGHER
Director, Youth Counseling Service,
Archdiocese of N. Y.
- LOUIS GOLDSTEIN
Retired Justice, Kings County Court
- GEORGE H. HEARN
City Councilman
- ALEXANDER G. HESTERBERG
Tax Commissioner
- HUAN E. JACK
Borough President, Manhattan
- MICHAEL KAPLAN
Justice, Court of Domestic Relations
- EDNA F. KELLY
Member of Congress
- STEPHEN F. KENNEDY
Police Comm., City of New York
- JACK KRANIS
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- ALBERT M. LEAVITT
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Surrogate's Court, Kings County
- EMILIO NUÑEZ
Justice, City Court
- FRANK D. O'CONNOR
District Attorney, Queens County
- FRANK J. PINO
State Senator
- REV. DANIEL M. POTTER
President, Council
- REV. VINCENT J. POWELL
CYO Brooklyn Diocese
- DR. EDWARD D. RE
Professor, St. John's Law School
- ARTHUR J. ROGERS
Director of Community Relations,
New York City Youth Board
- JOHN J. RYAN
Assemblyman
- ARTHUR M. SCHREIER
Majority Leader,
New York City Council
- EDWARD T. SHARKEY
District Attorney, Kings County
- RABBI RALPH SILVERSTEIN
Temple Sinai
- ABE STARK
President, New York City Council
- STANLEY STEINGUT
Assemblyman
- EDWARD THOMPSON
Justice, Court of Special Sessions
- RALPH WHELAN
Executive Director,
New York City Youth Board
- JOSEPH ZARETSKI
Minority Leader, State Senate
- WOMEN'S DIVISION
- RITA DEVILIN
- MARION DUBRESTEIN
- WILLIAM EPSTEIN
- LEE SINGER
- ROSE SINGER

The Committee seeks to:

- Outlaw the "gravity knife."
- Limit the sale of bullets in New York City.
- Establish a temporary Commission to help modernize the Sullivan Law.
- Ban the importation and shipment in interstate commerce of switchblade and gravity knives.

March 6, 1958

*Dear Governor, Garrison,
You will note on
the petition submitted to
you by Judge Cone in
support of the bill to ban
the gravity knife, the message
to return to me on thousands
of signatures (see enclosed sample).
I call this to your attention
so you will consider the strength
the nucleus of my C might have
if aroused to use it.
They are really a dedicated
group with a sincere intent in our youth.
I should like to be able to tell
them that you helped us. Please give
enclosed affidavit your careful consideration.
Respectfully yours
Rita DeSantis*

COMMITTEE TO BAN TEEN-AGE WEAPONS

714 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 19, N.Y.

Circle 5-2570-1

HON. JOHN E. CONE
ChairmanSTATE SENATOR FRANK J. PINO
Vice ChairmanCITY COUNCILMAN JACK KRANIS
Vice ChairmanGEORGE SAPAN
TreasurerMRS. NATHANIEL SINGER
Chairman, Women's DivisionIN COOPERATION WITH
THE YOUTH SERVICE LEAGUE

HON. ALBERT M. LEAVITT, President

ADVISORY BOARD

VICTOR L. ANFUSO
Member of CongressSAMUEL J. BATTLE
Former Parole CommissionerPETER C. BROWN
Corporation Counsel, New York City

ALBERT W. BYRNES

VINCENT J. CARISTO

VERY REV. MSGR. WILLIAM M. CASEY
Director, St. Vincent's Home for Boys

JOHN CASHMORE

Borough President, Brooklyn

ALFRED J. CAWSE, JR.

Justice, Court Special Sessions

ARTHUR CLINTON

Dir. Bureau of Attendance,
Board of Education

JOHN E. CONE

Justice, N.Y.S. Supreme Court

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IRVING BEN COOPER

Chief Judge, Court of Spec. Sessions

JAMES CRISONA

Borough President, Queens

ANTHONY J. DI GIOVANNA

Justice, Supreme Court, Kings County

ROSS DI LORENZO

Counsel, Workman's Compensation

ROBERT W. DOWLING

President, City Investing Co.

JOHN GALARDI

REV. ROBERT GALLAGHER

Director, Youth Counseling Service

Archdiocese of N.Y.

HON. JONAH GOLDSTEIN

Retired Judge, Court General Sessions

LOUIS GOLDSTEIN

Retired Justice, Kings County Court

GEORGE H. HEARN

City Councilman

ALEXANDER G. HESTERBERG

Tax Commissioner

MORRIS HORN

Labor Representative

HULAN E. JACK

Borough President, Manhattan

NATHANIEL KAPLAN

Justice, Court of Domestic Relations

EDNA F. KELLY

STEPHEN P. KENNEDY

Police Comm., City of New York

ABRAHAM KRADITOR

Past Nat'l Comm. J.W.V.

JACK KRANIS

City Councilman

ANNA M. KROSS

Commissioner, Dept. of Corrections

City of New York

ALBERT M. LEAVITT

Chief Clerk,

Surrogate's Court, Kings County

DR. JULIUS MARK

Senior Rabbi, Temple Emanu-El

EMILIO HUÑEZ

Justice, City Court

FRANK D. O'CONNOR

District Attorney, Queens County

FRANK J. PINO

State Senator

(OVER)

TEENAGE DANGEROUS

WEAPONS



We the undersigned urge the following legislative program to help ban teen-age weapons:

- Outlaw the "gravity knife."
- Limit the sale of bullets in New York City.
- Establish a temporary Commission to help modernize the Sullivan Law.
- Ban the importation and shipment in Interstate commerce of switchblade and gravity knives.

NAME	ADDRESS
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RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:

RITA DEVELIN

301 EAST 23rd STREET
BROOKLYN 26, NEW YORK

304



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LAW
ALBANY

LOUIS J. LEFKOWITZ
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE GOVERNOR

Re: Assembly Int. 913, Pr. 1796

This bill amends the Penal Law, Section 1896, which makes it a misdemeanor for a person to manufacture, sell, loan, lease or give a switchblade to any other person. The amendment similarly condemns the sale, loan or lease of gravity knives which are defined therein to be knives containing blades automatically opened by the force of gravity. Section 1897, subdivision 3, relating to the possession, is amended to permit the carrying of gravity knives in certain circumstances.

There is no legal objection to this bill.

Dated March 3, 1958

Respectfully submitted,

Louis J. Lefkowitz
LOUIS J. LEFKOWITZ
Attorney General

NYC 55-10M-120021 (58) 114

THE CITY OF NEW YORK



REPORT ON STATE LEGISLATION—APPROVED

Use a separate form for each bill. If necessary, continue on a blank sheet showing introductory and print numbers and pertinent item numbers.

Submit in Duplicate to Legislative Representative as follows:

Original to Room 1100, De Witt Clinton Hotel, Albany, N. Y.

Duplicate to Office of the Mayor, City Hall, New York 7, N. Y.

To: THE MAYOR
Att. The Legislative Representative

From: Reporting
Agency POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. IDENTIFYING DATA (as printed on face of bill)

SENATE INT. NO.

PRINT NO.

INTRODUCER

ASSEMBLY INT. NO. 913

PRINT NO. 913, 1796, INTRODUCER Steingut

TITLE OF THE BILL (Abbreviate if necessary) AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to the sale of possession of gravity knives.

2. ESTIMATED COST OR INCOME
(Indicate sum total of estimated mandated expenses, revenue losses or income to City)

Expenses or Loss	Income
------------------	--------

3. STATUS OF THE BILL (as printed above bill's title or rubber stamped on bill)

IN COMMITTEE ADVANCING ON CALENDAR BEFORE THE GOVERNOR

4. EFFECT OF BILL AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

(a. Describe legal effect of the bill and outline reasons for your recommendations. b. Include detailed analysis of any estimate shown in Item 2. c. Cite introductory and print numbers of identical or similar bills of current and prior years reported on by your agency and its recommendations thereon.)

This proposal would amend Section 1896 and subdivision 3 of Section 1897 of the Penal Law. The bill defines as a misdemeanor the manufacture, sale or possession of a gravity knife and as a felony the possession of such a knife if previously convicted of any crime. The gravity knife is one which is released from the handle or sheath thereof by gravity or by the application of centrifugal force. When released, it is locked in place by means of a button, spring, lever or other device.

Under the present statutes covering dangerous and unlawful weapons, the switchblade knife is included therein while there is silence as to the gravity knife. There can be no doubt that the gravity knife is as much a hazard to the safety of the general public as the switchblade knife. Since it has been made unlawful to have and possess a switchblade knife, the gravity knife has been most attractive and useful to those engaged in criminal activity. The experience of this Department indicates that gravity knives are being used increasingly as weapons in the perpetration of such crimes as homicides, assault, rape and robbery. Naturally, since it is not unlawful to possess such a knife under present law, the person about to commit such heinous crimes has no fear of being apprehended with such knife in his possession. As a result, one of the deterrent factors in the prevention of serious crimes is lost.

NYC 55-10M-120021(58) 114

THE CITY OF NEW YORK



REPORT ON STATE LEGISLATION—APPROVED

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Submit in Duplicate to Legislative Representative as follows:

Original to Room 1100, De Witt Clinton Hotel, Albany, N. Y.

Duplicate to Office of the Mayor, City Hall, New York 7, N. Y.

To: THE MAYOR
Att. The Legislative Representative

From: Reporting
Agency POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. IDENTIFYING DATA (as printed on face of bill)

SENATE INT. NO.

PRINT NO.

INTRODUCER

ASSEMBLY INT. NO. 913

PRINT NO. 913, 1796, INTRODUCER Steingut

TITLE OF THE BILL (Abbreviate if necessary)

2. ESTIMATED COST OR INCOME
(Indicate sum total of estimated
mandated expenses, revenue losses or
income to City)

Expenses or Loss

Income

3. STATUS OF THE BILL (as printed above bill's title or rubber stamped on bill)

IN COMMITTEE ADVANCING ON CALENDAR BEFORE THE GOVERNOR

4. EFFECT OF BILL AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

(a. Describe legal effect of the bill and outline reasons for your recommendations. b. Include detailed analysis of any estimate shown in Item 2. c. Cite introductory and print numbers of identical or similar bills of current and prior years reported on by your agency and its recommendations thereon.)

- 2 -

The gravity knife is inherently dangerous. To children and adults not versed in the use of such weapons, this knife can cause very serious injuries.

For the above reasons, this Department strongly urges the enactment of this proposal.

16

John P. Kennedy
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER

POLICE COMMISSIONER

TITLE

March 3, 1958

DATE

1972
MAY 2 PM 1958
YORK

THE COUNCIL

Res. No. 8

Resolution Calling Upon the State Legislature to Pass Legislation Prohibiting the Sale of Gravity Knives.

By Mr. Kranis—

Whereas, State Legislation to ban the sale of gravity knives is the crying need in the City of New York; and

Whereas, Such legislation has been discussed by prominent people in public life and they have urged such legislation; and

Whereas, The public prosecutors of The City of New York have all campaigned for such legislation; and

Whereas, The manufacturing of such gravity knives and the sale of them to teenagers, increases crime and juvenile delinquency; and

Whereas, The 1952 Legislature had outlawed the sale of switchblade knives to persons under 16; and

Whereas, Such law had not prohibited the sale of such gravity knives and because of such omission in the 1952 law, in not prohibiting the sale of gravity knives, find themselves in abundance in the hands of teenagers with resultant increase in crimes; and

Whereas, Such legislation against the sale of gravity knives would be an important factor in curtailing juvenile delinquency; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the City Council go on record to asking the State Legislature to pass such legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Governor of the State of New York urge the State Legislature to pass said legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to His Excellency, the Governor of the State of New York and the Majority and Minority Leaders of both houses.

The City of New York, ss.
Office of the City Clerk, ss.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a
Resolution passed by The Council of The City of New York on
FEBRUARY 18, 1958, on file in this office.

City Clerk, Clerk of the Council.

GROUP SEEKS BAN ON GRAVITY KNIFE

Successor to Switchblade Is Called a New Tool of Teen-Age Crime

By EMMA HARRISON

The "gravity knife" was introduced here yesterday as the a "legal" successor to the outlawed switchblade.

The purpose was to announce a campaign to outlaw the gravity knife as a tool of teen-age crime.

Several of the knives, recently confiscated by the police, were shown by the new Committee to Ban Teen-age Weapons as it opened its drive for legislation to ban the knives.

By a technicality in the construction of the knife, manufacturers and distributors are able to sell it with impunity here, of the most vicious crimes

Judge Cone, committee chair- man. He was interviewed at the stration was attended by com- and Victor L. Anfuso, Brooklyn New Yorker Hotel.

Judge Cone selected a sleek, silvery object from weapons port that the committee had on display. He flicked his wrist sharply downward and the long blade shot forth and anchored firmly in position.

"You see," he said, "the blade leaps out with a flip of the wrist gravity knife.

and circumvents the law on switchblade knives. There is no lawful to sell or give away any button needed to open it."

The knife circumvents the state law banning the sale of the switchblade, which opens by a spring mechanism. The law was passed in 1954.

QA measure to create a tem-

plate members and other citizens pledged to sponsor or support several types of legislation that the committee had on display. He flicked his wrist sharply downward and the long blade shot forth and anchored firmly in position.

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and Victor L. Anfuso, Brooklyn Senate minority leader Joseph Stanley Steingut, both Assemblyman Zaretzki and Assemblyman John J. Ryan, also Democrats, will sponsor measures to limit sale of ammunition in New York City porary commission.

The committee is composed of about 100 public officials and civic, welfare and religious leaders.

QA state law making it unlawful to sell or give away any button needed to open it."

The knife circumvents the state law banning the sale of of a gun permit, hunting license of about 100 public officials and civic, welfare and religious leaders.

QA measure to create a tem-

plate members and other citizens pledged to sponsor or support several types of legislation that the committee had on display. He flicked his wrist sharply downward and the long blade shot forth and anchored firmly in position.

Judge Cone's knife demon- Representatives Edna F. Kelly

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN ADDED BY
NY LEGISLATIVE SERVICE, INC.
IT IS NOT CONTAINED IN THE
GOVERNMENT FILE, HOWEVER, WE
FEEL THAT IT MAY BE HELPFUL

The New York Times
Published: December 19, 1957
Copyright © The New York Times

COURT BANS SALES OF GRAVITY KNIVES

The Court of Special Sessions ruled yesterday that gravity knives were in the same category as switchblade knives, and their sale or possession was a violation of the Sullivan law.

A gravity knife is one with a button that keeps the blade concealed. When the button is pushed, disengaging the blade, a flip of the wrist or simply holding the knife pointed down will set the blade in place for cutting.

After the outlawing of switchblade knives, which operate with a spring mechanism, some hoodlums took to carrying gravity knives.

The ruling, handed down by Justices Edward T. Galloway, John V. Flood and Magistrate J. Randall Creel, who is sitting in Special Sessions temporarily, came in the case of a novelty store salesman.

The salesman, Terry Powell, 25 years old, of 305 East Twenty-fourth Street, was arrested last May in the Funny Store, Inc., at 1481 Broadway. He had sold a gravity knife to Detective Nardin Duncan. He was found guilty of violating the section of the law banning switchblade knives. He will be sentenced on March 12.

On Tuesday the City Council appointed a special committee to make recommendations concerning legislation designed to tighten control over the sale of dangerous weapons and ammunitions. One of the matters on the committee's agenda for discussion at its meeting on Monday is the gravity knife.

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Ban Asked on Teen-Agers' Weapons



The New York Times

Police Commissioner Stephen P. Kennedy, left, and Grover A. Whalen, a former Commissioner, examine a zipgun.

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A committee of public officials and private citizens began a campaign yesterday for 250,000 signatures to petitions for outlawing the gravity knife and the sale of ammunition to anyone except a licensed hunter.

The drive was begun by the Committee to Ban Teen-Age Weapons at its new headquarters, 714 Fifth Avenue. The legislation is aimed at young hoodlums in New York, but enactment by city, state and nation was felt to be necessary. Bills have been introduced into the City Council, Legislature and Congress. The gravity knife is one in which

a long blade slides by its own weight out of a hollow handle and locks in place. It became popular among young gangsters after the switchblade knife was outlawed in 1954. A Special Sessions court ruling on Wednesday held that the sale of gravity knives was illegal under the Sullivan Law.

The proposed ban on ammunition is intended primarily to stop the sale of .22-caliber cartridges to boys who shoot them from homemade guns.

Police Commissioner Stephen P. Kennedy said the proposed legislation would be "helpful" although not the final answer.

The New York Times

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HIGHER AGE LIMIT FOR ARMS IS URGED

**Kennedy Asks State to Raise
Minimum for Purchase of
Weapons From 16 to 18**

The state's Penal Law should be revised to raise from 16 to 18 years the age of persons permitted to purchase firearms and ammunition, Police Commissioner Stephen P. Kennedy declared yesterday.

The Commissioner said adoption of the higher age limit would "provide leadership to other states, particularly those contiguous to New York."

Mr. Kennedy gave his views in an appearance at City Hall before a hearing of a City Council committee. The hearing was on proposals before the Council to seek a state legislative ban on the sale of .22-caliber bullets to teen-agers and on the sale of gravity knives altogether.

A gravity knife is one in which a long blade slides by its own weight out of a hollow handle and locks in place.

The Police Commissioner was one of nine speakers favoring the ban. Five persons opposed it.

Mr. Kennedy called gravity knives "dangerous" and said they should be specifically banned by law. A Special Sessions Court ruling last Wednesday held that the sale of gravity knives was illegal under the Sullivan Law.

The Commissioner conceded that .22-caliber bullets should be available to authorized persons, such as members of rifle clubs, but said that some means of identifying authorized purchasers should be established.

Proposed Ban Scored

The suggested ban on .22-caliber bullets and gravity knives was, however, ridiculed by persons who opposed it.

Karl Frederick, former president of the National Rifle Association and winner of the individual pistol title at the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp, declared that the proposed ban would "disarm the honest people for the benefit of the crook."

The ban, Mr. Frederick asserted, could lead ultimately to prohibiting baseball bats, stones, sticks and kitchen cutlery as dangerous weapons.

Mr. Frederick, a lawyer of Rye, N. Y., and a member of the Commissioner's Advisory Committee of the State Conservation Department, said he had heard that young hoodlums had sometimes used can openers.

"Are you going to ban can openers?" he asked. "They are a very ugly weapon."

According to Mr. Frederick, gravity knives offer convenience to hunters, who can open them with one hand.

Speakers in favor of the proposed ban included Mrs. Nathaniel Singer, women's division chairman of the Committee to Ban Teen-Age Weapons, and James E. McCarthy, executive director of Big Brothers, Inc.

Mr. McCarthy declared that "more New York City youngsters are killed by .22 bullets than by any other."

Two resolutions were the subject of the hearing. One would call on the Legislature to outlaw the sale of gravity knives to persons under 18. The other would call for a ban on the sale of .22-caliber ammunition to teen-agers as "an important factor in curbing juvenile delinquency."

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